

All Hallows Catholic College

A Voluntary Academy | National Teaching School

Aspire not to have more but to be more

Brooklands Avenue, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 8LB | Telephone: 01625 426138 | Fax: 01625 468126 | admin@allhallows.org.uk | www.allhallows.org.uk

Principal - Mr T Beesley

4th January 2022

Dear Parent or Carer,

RE: COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) – UPDATED INFORMATION AND ADVICE FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

I hope you are well and that you have had a happy and peaceful Christmas. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy new year. You may be aware from media reports that there will be additional temporary restrictions in schools & colleges for the start of term, and I would like to share with you this latest guidance.

Asymptomatic Testing & Phased Return to College in January

As communicated at the end of last term, the latest DfE guidance is that all secondary schools should offer students one on-site asymptomatic test on their return to school in January. We have begun our on-site asymptomatic testing today, with Years 10-13, and Years 7-9 will be offered their tests tomorrow, as per my letter of 10th December. Years 10-13 return to face-to-face lessons from tomorrow, and work will continue to be set on Show My Homework for Years 7-9, until they return to face-to-face teaching on Thursday 6th January.

The guidance continues to encourage all staff and secondary school students to continue to test twice weekly at home, with lateral flow device (LFD) test kits, 3-4 days apart.

Face-Coverings

As well as continuing to recommend that face coverings be worn by students, staff and visitors when moving around the premises, such as in corridors and communal areas, from January 4th, it is also recommended that *'in those schools where pupils in year 7 and above are educated, face coverings should be worn in classrooms. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This will also be a temporary measure.'*

Students should, therefore, bring a face-covering, including a spare one, into College with them. Additionally, *'Students must also wear a face covering when travelling on public transport and should wear it on dedicated transport to and from school.'* Any exemptions to the wearing of face coverings, if we do not already know about them, must be communicated to your child's Form Tutor, Year Learning Leader or our SENCO, Mr Ben Mercer.



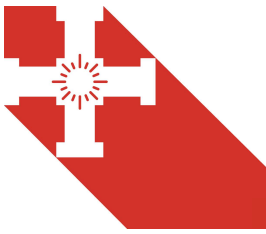
Honourable Purpose

Respect

Compassion

Co-operation

Stewardship



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Self-Isolation

The new guidance on the period of isolation, following a positive test, has been extended to schools & colleges. Therefore, if students who have tested positive return 2 negative LFD tests 24 hours apart from day 6 of their isolation, they can return to College / end isolation on day 8. Anyone who is identified as a close contact of a positive case should take an LFD test every day for 7 days, and continue to attend College as normal, unless they have a positive test result or develop symptoms.

Year 11 Mocks

I wrote to the parents & carers of Year 11 & 13 students, before Christmas, with details about plans for GCSEs and A levels in 2022, including the January mock examinations for Year 11. At this moment, we are still planning on running these exams, from Monday 10th January, as previously communicated.

Staff & Student Absence

You may be aware of concerns raised in the media about the availability of school staff as the term progresses. The government has informed employers to expect 25% of employees to be unavailable. Should there be a situation with staff absence that requires us to take a different approach than what would usually be expected, we will communicate this to you.

Student absence should be reported in the usual way, by contacting the College's Attendance Officer on 01625 426138, and choosing Option 1 for the Attendance Office.

I am sorry to be having to write to you so early in the term with this additional guidance and information, but I hope you understand that this continues to be a changing situation. As always, thank you very much for your continued support. If you do have questions about any of the issues above, please feel free to email my PA, Mrs Metheringham, at principalpa@allhallows.org.uk

God Bless

Tim Beesley



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